Library

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1952

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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W. H. ALDERTON, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

E. J. BANNER, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.San.I.

The Manor Press, Ltd., Colchester.

Rebow Chambers,

Colchester,

29th June, 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1952.

The report is compiled in accordance with the instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

The Birth Rate differs very little from last year, whilst the Death Rate is a little higher. Again the number of deaths outnumbered the number of births. This is no reason for despondency as nearly half the number of deaths were over seventy-five years of age.

I would like to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the co-operation of members of the council and the staff.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

W. H. ALDERTON.

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statistics and Social Circumstances of the Area.

Area	3171 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, Mid 1952	3008
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Book	1062
Rateable Value	£17,075
Sum represented by a penny rate	£66

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District is a compact island community situated in the estuaries of the Rivers Colne and Blackwater, about nine miles from Colchester, with which it is connected by means of a frequent motor bus service. Its healthy position attracts many visitors during the summer months.

A number of the houses are owner-occupied and have town amenities, as the District has its own water supply and sewage system and is connected to the Eastern Electricity system.

There is little unemployment.

The main industries are agriculture, fishing and building. Yachting also employs quite a number of persons.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	*M.*	*F.*	
Live Births	Legitimate ..	35	14	21	Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population–11.6. Corrected Birth Rate–12.8
	Illegitimate ..	—	—	—	
Still Births	Legitimate ..	—	—	—	Rate per 1000 total Births—Nil.
	Illegitimate ..	—	—	—	
Deaths		41	20	21	Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population—13.6. Comparability figure—.68; Corrected Death Rate 9.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	*Deaths*	*Rate per* 1000 *total Births*
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age		
All infants per 1000 live births		—
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ..		—
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ..		—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		10
,, ,, Measles (all ages)		—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		—

Deaths in the various age groups (local statistics)

Age	*No. of deaths*
0–1 year	—
1–2 years	—
2–5 ,, ...	—
5–15 ,, ...	—
15–25 ,, ...	1
25–35 ,, ...	—
35–45 ,, ...	3
45–55 ,, ...	5
55–65 ,, ...	5
65–75 ,, ...	7
75–85 ,, ...	15
85 and upwards	5
	41

CAUSES OF DEATH	*M.*	*F.*
Poliomyelitis	—	1
Cancer	7	3
Leukaemia	—	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	2	4
Heart disease	5	9
Other circulatory disease	—	2
Nephritis	1	—
Other diseases	4	—
Accidents	1	—
	20	21

The following table shows the approximate state of immunisation against Diphtheria at December 31st, 1952.

Population 0–4 *inclusive*	*Number immunised*	*Percentage*
249	120	48
Population 5–14 *inclusive*	*Number immunised*	*Percentage*
423	409	96

National Assistance Acts, 1948–51.

No action was necessary under these Acts during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

The Medical Officer of Health—W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is employed part-time; he devotes the remainder of his time to two neighbouring authorities and to the Essex County Council.

The Sanitary Inspector—E. J. Banner, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.San.I. He is also employed as Surveyor to the Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory attached to the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water for Bacterial Analysis are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Samples of ice cream and other foods are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency, it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance. If there is a dialling system in operation, dial " 999," " 0 " or " 01 " and ask for an ambulance.

Health Services provided by the Essex County Council.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.
Maternity and Child Welfare Service.
Nursing in the Home.
Health Visiting.
Mental Welfare.
Home Help Service.
Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.
Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.
School Health Service.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester, at 2.30 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Church Hall on the second Wednesday in the month at 2.15 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester, Telephone Colchester 4454.

Health Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board

Tuberculosis .. The chest clinic is situated at 3, Shewell Road, Colchester, and is open daily; patients are usually referred there by their own doctor.

V.D. .. .. Sessions are held at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester, on :—
Mondays 5–7 p.m. for Males and Females.
Fridays 2.30–3.30 p.m. for Females and Children.
3.30–4.30 p.m. for Males.

Certain specialist services are also provided and obtained through the School Medical Service.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER

The District is supplied by the Council's mains from a deep bore situated in Upland Road.

The level of water in the bore remains fairly constant and no anxiety is felt regarding the quantity. The quality is satisfactory, but has a moderately high saline content; fluorine is also present in the water.

In addition to the Council's supply, a water main from the neighbouring Rural District passes through the eastern portion of the district; from this main some of our houses are supplied more easily than would otherwise be possible.

Two samples of water were taken for Chemical Analysis and fourteen for Bacteriological examination.

Typical Analyses are appended :—

Chemical Results in parts per Million

Appearance Bright with a slight flocculent deposit of mineral debris.

Colour Filtered	3	*Turbidity*	3
pH	8.3	*Odour*	Nil
Electric Conductivity ..	3000	*Free Carbon Dioxide* ..	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	740	*Total Solids*	2000
Hardness Total	80	*Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate*	385
Nitrate Nitrogen ..	0.0	*Carbonate* 80 *Non-Carbonate*	0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.49	*Nitrite Nitrogen*	Approx. 0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.000	*Oxygen absorbed*	0.45
Metals	Absent	*Residual Chlorine* ..	Absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character and is normal with respect to its high content of mineral and saline constituents including chlorides. Its organic quality is of a high standard. Apart from the objection to its known high content of fluorine and the possibility of the chloride content being noticeable to sensitive palates the results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Bacteriological Report

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically ..	3 per ml.
Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 3 days at room temperature	28
Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey 2 days, 37°C.	0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli	—

Bacteriological findings satisfactory.

The number of houses supplied by our own mains is 968.

The number supplied from mains of the adjoining district is 31.

The number supplied from standpipes is 57 with a population of 69.

900 yards of 4 inch main have been laid in Dawes Lane from the East Mersea main of the Lexden and Winstree R.D.C. for use in emergency.

HOUSING

The remarks I made on the housing situation in my report of 1951 can well be the same for the year under review.

Although there are 51 applicants on the housing waiting list, the urgency is not the same as experienced in other areas.

More houses were completed than in the previous year—

14 by the Council.

6 by private enterprise.

This is 16 more than last year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Disposal Works have again operated to capacity satisfactorily, no major breakdown having occurred. It is evident that a considerable quantity of surface water gets into the sewers; this is not surprising when it is realised a number are laid in running sand.

No extensions were made to the sewer.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

I am sorry that another year has passed, and the Refuse Dump is still in the same place, and still spoiling the amenities of the district. I understand that there is some prospect of improvement in this respect before the end of another year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Inspections of food shops, bakeries and other places where food is prepared have been undertaken regularly.

No slaughtering of animals is done in the district; this takes place at Colchester where the animals are inspected.

The following foods were condemned and surrendered voluntarily.

Beef	23 lbs.
Pork	24 lbs.
Mutton	148 lbs.
Tinned Foods	61 tins

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1952.

INSPECTIONS

Houses	236
Public Health Acts	27
Butchers' Shops	75
Fried Fish Shops	7
Ice Cream Stores	9
Dairies	15
Bakehouses	6
Factory Acts	18
Rat Infestations	35
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites	22

SAMPLING

Water Samples taken.	Bacteriological	14
	Chemical	2

NOTICES

Statutory. Public Health	Nil
Informal. Public Health and Housing	2
Informal. Public Health and Housing . Complied with ..	2

No demolition or closing Orders issued.

E. J. BANNER

Sanitary Inspector.

MOSQUITO NUISANCE

This was a much improved year from the point of view of freedom from mosquitoes. Spraying of known breeding places was started early in the year, and continued at intervals throughout the breeding season. In consequence complaints were few.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The District was more free from infectious disease than last year; more than half the number of cases were due to whooping cough.

One case of poliomyelitis occurred, and this unfortunately resulted in death. The only possible contact in this case could have been at an open air engagement.

Details of the occurrence of infectious disease is shown in the table below.

Disease	0–1	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–65	65+	*Total*	*Admitted to Hospital*
Whooping Cough	—	11	8	—	—	1	—	20	—
Measles ..	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	4	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmonary	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections have been made under the Factories Act and defects observed have been dealt with.

The following table gives details of the work done.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (*including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector*).

Premises	*Number in Register*	*Number of Inspections*
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	12	18
Cases in which defects were found		Nil

OUTWORK

Number of Outworkers on August list	Nil